

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 18th May 2009 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor C M Ambrose Smith*
Councillor D J Boyd
Councillor F J Brown
Councillor R Constable
Councillor P M Cox
Councillor D Gardiner
Councillor B W Hayes*
Councillor S D Kerridge
Councillor T J Lee
Councillor D Murfitt
Councillor G Norman
Councillor M Pyrah
Councillor A N Wright

Also present the Clerk and Assistant Clerk

1. CHAIRMAN:

Councillor F J Brown was duly elected to serve as Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE:

Councillor F J Brown signed the declaration of acceptance of office

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: - None

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F J W Brown and Crane

6. VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Two nominations for Vice Chairman Councillors F J W Brown and Norman were received and on a show of hands Councillor Norman was duly appointed Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

7. COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS:

The Chairman and Vice Chairman are ex-officio members of all the committees and working parties.

Planning: Councillors Ambrose Smith, Boyd, Constable, Cox, Crane, Gardiner, Hayes, Lee, Kerridge, Murfitt and Pyrah

Finance: Councillors Boyd, Cox, Crane, Gardiner, Hayes, Kerridge, Lee, Murfitt, Pyrah and Wright

Cemetery: Councillors Ambrose Smith, Boyd, Cox, Crane, Gardiner, Kerridge, Lee, Murfitt and Pyrah

Street Lighting: Councillors Cox Gardiner and Ambrose Smith

Play Equipment, Allotment, Footpaths and Open Spaces: Councillors Boyd, Cox, Gardiner, Kerridge and Lee

Tree Planting: Councillors Kerridge and Ambrose Smith

Office Admin/CCTV/ Website: Councillors Cox and Gardiner

8 CALC REPRESENTATIVES

Councillors Hayes and Lee were duly appointed as CALC representatives for the coming year.

9. LITTLEPORT LEISURE REPRESENTATIVES:

Councillors Crane was duly appointed as a representative to the Leisure Centre committee. Volunteers to fill the remaining 6 vacancies were requested.

10. CALC SUBSCRIPTION:

Members agreed to renew the CALC subscription in the sum of £607.25

11. INSURANCE POLICIES AND DEEDS:

The Chairman confirmed that he had inspected the Insurance Policies and the list of deeds held by the Solicitors

12. CCTV MONITORS

The Clerk and Assistant Clerk was appointed CCTV monitors for the ensuing year.

13. STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:

* Councillor Hayes arrived

No amendments were made to the current Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

14. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Reminder that the open Parish Council meeting will take place in the Village Hall on 20th May 2009.

15. MINUTES:

The reports of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 20th April 2009 and the Planning Committee Meeting held on 27th April 2009 were confirmed and signed.

16. FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Councillor Norman reported on the following recommendation:

To approve the back pay to council staff for the last financial year following the result of arbitration. Agreed.

17. FOLLOW UP DIARY

The Clerk reported:

Lloyds Pharmacy -the area manager apologised for the recent failure to open due to staff sickness and explained how he had arranged replacement cover. Mrs Green had been informed of the measures taken.

Street Lighting – Granby Street. ECDC had only paid for three lighting columns in stage one of the upgrade. The remaining lights would now be installed and funded by the Parish Council through the precept.

Black Horse Drove- Purchase now completed and the neighbour Mr Peck has professed an interest in purchasing the flying freehold. Preliminary plans have been drawn up and will require tweaking before seeking planning permission and grants.

Parish Paths Partnership has awarded a £300.00 grant for this financial year towards maintenance costs.

Parsons Lane Play Area - still not satisfied with Kompan repairs – further vandalism has occurred which looks suspiciously like dogs teeth. Boulders are still causing problems as targets for bottle smashing.

Attended a meeting with the police as part of the action plan following Neighbourhood Panel meeting last month

18. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Councillor Wright reported that it was likely at the Annual District Council Meeting members would rubber stamp delegating to an officer to review discretionary rate relief. This is likely to affect many smaller clubs, charities etc.

The Standards Board enquiry cost £25,000 and exonerated Councillor Ashton of any wrong doing.

*Councillor Ambrose Smith arrived at this point and has nothing further to report,

19. ANNUAL RETURN:

Members agreed the Annual Return for the financial year ended 31st March 2009. A breakdown of the variations would be brought to the next meeting. Councillors questioned whether they were over budgeting or under spending.

20. LAND REGISTRATION - ELY ROAD:

Councillor Norman left the meeting for t his item.

Members were unanimous in their agreement not to sell for £1.00 the strip of land to the rear of 14 Millpit Furlong or to meet the legal costs of £350.00. Members approved payment of £40.00 to cover Land Registry enquiries.

21. PARAMEDICS:

Rumours are circulating regarding the possible loss of the Paramedic base at St George's Medical Centre. There are procedures to follow including staff and public consultation before any changes in working practices can be made. Agreed to wait and see.

22. ALLOTMENTS:

Members received a letter from Mark Kerridge regarding alleged intimidation from allotment holders.

23. FRIARS NINE:

Members were concerned about encroachment of this right of way by properties in Upton Place which back on to it. Agreed to check with Land Registry on the boundaries and then get it registered as a public right of way. Further information to be brought back to a future meeting.

24. PARSONS LANE – JOINTLY FUNDED MINOR IMPROVEMENT:

Councillor Norman proposed acceptance of the modified scheme to improve parking issues related to the Community Primary School Seconded by Councillor Gardiner and carried.

25. COMMUNITY BUILDING STEERING GROUP:

Copies of the notes from a recent meeting and a report previously circulated. Councillor Wright stated that a modest build could attract Section 106 monies and to clarify the misconception that the Master Plan process gave access to funding and it was likely to be some time before the process got under way. We should press on with what we need.

The Council is in a catch 22 situation – they need commitment from District Council; definition of what is wanted and analysis of need.

Councillor Cox stressed the need for money to be put into a fund to meet the costs of plans etc, confirmation of funding from County Council Section 106 (youth provision) and other sources were needed before you could design a building to fit the funds available. The Council would need to precept funds or seek a loan.

Comparisons were drawn regarding the building of the Leisure Centre. Councillor Wright pointed out £1000 was used to research the project. Funding came from the sale of land owned by the parish for the build.

Discussion ensued regarding the current village hall and members felt it should subsidise running costs as this is a community asset.

Councillor Wright moved that the council take no further action until we are sure of ownership of the land (Paddocks) and in the meantime the Parish Council will continue to seek ownership of the said land.

Councillor Cox gave a detailed summary of the report's findings and a copy is attached to the end of this report.

Councillor Mrs Boyd asked what the need is and respond to the need and the council must agree that we do need another hall.

Councillor Lee seconded the motion which was carried with three abstentions

Agreed to approach the District Council for assurance the Section 106 money will not be disposed in advance of the Littleport Master Plan. A copy of the process to be requested in writing.

In confirmation of the foregoing report

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE